

2001 ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

The Texas Legislature created the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians in 1983 to license and regulate dietitians in Texas in order to protect the public and improve the standards of the profession. The board accomplishes these goals by establishing minimum standards of education, training, competency for licensure and licensure renewal, and by enforcing standards for the practice of dietetics.

Board Membership

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians (board) consists of nine members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Six members are licensed dietitians under this Act and three members represent the general public. In making the six professional appointments to the board, the governor considers and attempts to accomplish a continuing balance of representation among the five primary areas of expertise included within the professional discipline of dietetics: clinical; educational; management; consultation; and community. Professional members must have been a licensed dietitian under this Act for at least three years before appointment to the board. The members serve staggered terms of six years with three terms beginning September 1 of each odd-numbered year.

<u>Members</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Term expires</u>
Elizabeth S. Blakely	Public	September 1, 2003
Lucinda M. Flores, L.D.	Professional	September 1, 2003
Linde Gibson, L.D.	Professional	September 1, 2001
Patricia Krug, L.D.	Professional	September 1, 2001
Ralph McGahagin, L.D.	Professional	September 1, 2005
Richard A. Roman	Public	September 1, 2005
Amy W. Scott, L.D.	Professional	September 1, 2003
Dorothy M. Shafer*	Public	September 1, 2001
Gene Wisakowsky, L.D.	Professional	September 1, 2005

*Deceased 10-26-2001

Staff

Donna Flippin serves as the Executive Director for the board along with one program staff position. The board is administratively attached to the Texas Department of Health, Professional Licensing and Certification Division.

Requirements for Licensure with Examination

Licensure requirements include completion of a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate degree with a major course of study in human nutrition, nutrition education, dietetics, or food systems management or an equivalent major course of study approved by the board; and completion of an internship or preplanned

professional experience program in dietetics practice of not less than 900 hours. Following completion of the educational and internship requirements, applicants for licensure must pass the Commission on Dietetic Registration's examination.

Continuing Education

Continuing education requirements are intended to maintain and improve the quality of services provided to the public by licensed dietitians and provisional licensed dietitians. A minimum of six clock hours of continuing education credit required at the time of annual renewal includes programs beyond the basic preparation which are designed to promote and enrich knowledge, improve skills, and develop attitudes for the enhancement of licensed dietitians, thus improving nutritional care to the public. As of October 2001, specific continuing education is required every two years for licensed dietitians providing diabetes self-management training. All continuing education hours must be offered or approved by the Commission on Dietetic Registration or its agents, or a regionally accredited college or university.

Licensing Activities

During fiscal year 2001 the board issued 250 initial and 3,071 renewal licenses. As of August 31, 2001, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians had a total of 3,321 licensees, with 13 dietitians holding a provisional license.

Budget

The total revenue for the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians program for fiscal year 2001 was \$157,393. The total expenditures for the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians program for fiscal year 2001 were \$114,420.

Disciplinary Actions

During fiscal year 2001, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians received three complaints. One complaint was closed. The board took no disciplinary action. Investigations are underway on the remainder of the complaints.

Public Information

The board maintains a home page on the Texas Department of Health's web site in order to provide information about its programs and activities to the public. The page may be found at <<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/diet.htm>>. The page includes the Licensed Dietitian Act, board rules, program information regarding qualifications and application requirements, application and renewal forms, and information on filing a complaint with the board. A roster listing all licensed and provisionally licensed dietitians in Texas is also available on the web page. The board also publishes an annual newsletter and distributes "A Guide to Licensed Dietitians in Texas."

Rulemaking

The board proposed new rules in June 2001 concerning the qualifications of licensed dietitians providing diabetes self-management training. The rules were adopted October 14, 2001. The rules will implement Senate Bill 982, 76th Texas Legislature, 1999. The new section may be found at 22 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §711.22.

Legislation

Senate Bill 791 by Nelson (77th Texas Legislature, 2001) would have authorized the Board (and other boards) to invoke administrative penalties for violations of the licensing act or board rules. The governor vetoed the bill.

Summary

The Licensed Dietitian Act is a title protection act. The board believes in taking proactive steps to ensure that the privilege of licensure is entrusted only to those who meet the established requirements.